

Activity: Alaska Minerals

Activity Summary (\$000's)

Subactivity	2001 Actual	2002 Enacted To Date	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2003 Budget Request	Change From 2002 (+/-)
Alaska Minerals \$	3,889	4,000	+19	-1,791	2,228	-1,772
FTE	17	17	0	-8	9	-8

2003 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The FY 2003 budget request is \$2,228,000 and 9 FTE.

The Alaska Minerals program is responsible for assessing mineral resources on Federal lands in Alaska. These assessments ensure effective public and private mineral supply decisions by identifying land use management alternatives and policy options, completing reliable cost analyses of alternate sources of mineral supply, and analyzing mineral extraction technologies. In addition, the BLM develops cost-effective techniques for characterizing the environmental hazards associated with waste from past mining and minerals processing operations in Alaska. This program directly supports the BLM strategic goal to provide economic and technical assistance.

Mineral Assessment -There are 15 mining districts in Alaska with completed or nearly completed mineral assessments. Mineral assessments for another 15 of the mining districts are scheduled in priority order in the long-range planning document for 2003 and beyond. Assessments of the remaining 43 mining districts are not currently scheduled.

In 2003, significant accomplishments planned will include the following:

- The BLM will continue collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey and will conduct the final follow-up study of the Ketchikan airborne geophysical survey.
- The BLM will continue an airborne geophysical survey for the Delta and Aniak Mining Districts.
- The Alaska Cost Factors study will be completed and the results published as a BLM Technical Report.
- Database updates for the Annual Mining Plan Applications will be completed. Information on producing mineral properties, major developing mineral properties, prospect sites and current exploration projects will also be updated.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2001, major accomplishments in the Alaska Minerals program include the following:

- The final year of major field work was completed for the Koyukuk and Stikine mineral assessments.
- Reconnaissance field work was completed on the Aniak and Delta River mineral assessments.

In 2002, significant planned accomplishments will include the following:

- Final reports for the Stikine and Koyukuk mineral assessments are being completed and will be published.
- Economic analysis in support of the Koyukuk Mining District mineral assessment has been completed; the final report will be published in early 2002. The economic analysis for the Stikine mineral assessment has been started and should be published in 2002.
- The BLM is continuing a program to provide on-line Internet accessibility to the Juneau Minerals Information Center library.
- Economic modeling for mineral deposit types in the mining districts will be started and databases will be updated; final reports will be published in 2005.
- The former U.S. Bureau of Mines computerized minerals database resides with the BLM in Alaska. This database will be updated for the Koyukuk and Stikine mineral assessments.
- Internet postings will continue to include the following: current Federal and State mining claims; Federal and State status plats; historical Federal mining claims in Alaska, starting with 2001; State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Kardex files; and an inquiry system for Alaska Geologic Materials Center. The BLM's Mineral Availability System files at the Juneau office are being scanned and converted to viewable documents that will be available on the internet.
- Work will begin for the Aniak and Delta River mineral assessments.
- An airborne geophysical survey is scheduled to begin for the Delta River mining district study.
- The BLM, in cooperation with the State of Alaska has funded an integrated system to make mining claim information on both State and Federal lands available on the Internet. The system will be tied to the State Records Office and Department of Natural Resources and the BLM lands databases, with computer links to mining claims, title, and land status information.
- The BLM and USGS, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, USDA Forest Service, libraries, native corporations, universities, and others, are developing a minerals information system. This minerals information system will collect and organize information addressing library resources, databases, and preservation of physical samples and make the information available through internet linkages to existing and future data systems with the cooperating agencies and groups. The Liaison Committee expects the minerals information system to be completed by the end of 2002.

The following are examples of collaborative and cooperative management activities and projects that have been and will continue to be funded in the Alaska Minerals Program.

- **Aniak Mining District Study** -This five-year mining district study is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the State of Alaska's Division of Geophysical and Geological Surveys, and the Calista Native Regional Corporation. Mineral assessments ensure effective public and private mineral supply decisions through identification of land-use management alternatives and policy options, reliable cost analyses of alternate sources of mineral supply, and mineral extraction technologies.
- **Minerals Data Information Rescue in Alaska/Interagency Minerals Coordinating Group** - The BLM in Alaska works jointly with other agencies to make geological samples available for

public use. Member agencies include the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and the State of Alaska Division of Geophysical and Geological Surveys. The BLM Alaska is cooperating with the DGGS to provide digitized active mining claim data to the public via the internet. Projects include Data-at-Risk, inventory of acquisitions, storage, and accessibility of minerals data in Alaska.

JUSTIFICATION OF 2003 PROGRAM CHANGES

2003 Program Changes

	2003 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
\$(000s)	2,228	-1,791
FTE	9	-8

The 2003 budget request for Alaska Minerals is \$2,231,000, and 9 FTE, a program decrease of \$1,791,000 and 8 FTE from the 2002 enacted level.

Assessment of the Mineral Potential of Public Lands in Alaska, (-\$1,775,000) - The BLM has used these funds to assist in developing the Integrated Mining Claim System for Alaska and to collect and organize data on Alaska's mineral resources. Both components of this effort will be completed in 2002, therefore funding will not be continued in 2003.

Travel Reduction (-\$16,000) Travel and transportation expenses in this program will be reduced through management reform and efficiencies.

WORKLOAD MEASURES

Workload Measure	2001 Actual	2002 Planned	2003 Proposed
Alaska Mineral Land Assessment (# completed)	40	112	142